

AUGUST 4, 2016

MCHC³ MINUTES

PRESENT: Michael, Gildenberg, Bobbin Paskell, Joseph Iturriaga, Kathy Kelly, Theresa D. Neidich, Pastor Berny, Edie Grauer, Peter Velez, Melissa Bellamy, Darlene Morin, Lori Freedman, Stephanie Evans, Renee DiiGrigoli, Teresa Bogush, Tina Mikes, Scarlet Gorton, James Hance, Wesley Moore, Kimberly Ewell, Candace Crane, Katie Orlemanski.

GUESTS: Frances Moody (DCA/Housing), Jay Everett (Monarch Housing), Agnes Milea (VA), Sharyn Fontana (MCACC), Jill Limbardozzi (Soldier On), John El Maraghy (Town Clock, CDC). Sandra Panton (DFD).

STAFF: Harriet Slonim

I. WELCOME CALL TO ORDER/ PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT/INTRODUCTIONS

DISPOSITION: INFORMATIONAL

Chairperson Melissa Bellamy opened the meeting pursuant to the "Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-10". Roundtable introductions ensued.

Chairperson Melissa Bellamy explained the sign-in sheet procedure. One sheet is designated for Official MCHC3 Representatives and Designees. The second sheet is designated for GUESTS ONLY. Attendees were requested to sign-in accordingly.

Melissa also asked all those participating in the MCHC3 meeting to ask for clarification if an explanation of an acronym is needed.

II. MISSION STATEMENT FOR MCHC³

DISPOSITION: INFORMATIONAL

Chairperson Melissa Bellamy read the Mission Statement.:

"The mission of the Middlesex County Housing Continuum of Care Committee (MCHC3) is to stimulate community-wide planning and coordination of programs for individuals and families who are homeless, and unify and coordinate efforts to end homelessness in Middlesex County, New Jersey, so no one will experience homelessness and no one will be without a safe, stable place to call home"

. III. APPROVAL OF THE JULY 7, 2016 MINUTES

DISPOSTION: MOTION

A motion was made and seconded to approve the July 7, 2016 Minutes.

MOTION

Motion Made: Theresa D. Neidich

Seconded By: Edie Grauer

Abstentions: Michael Gildenberg
Pastor Berny

Opposed: None

The Motion passed.

IV. 2016 CONTINUUM OF CARE APPLICATION PROCESS

DISPOSTION: MOTION

Melissa and Jay Everett provided an overview of the of the recent 2016 Continuum of Care Middlesex Continuum of Care Application process. Melissa made certain to clarify the role of the Technical Review Committee and that ALL members were non-affiliated in any way with the applications seeking funding via this HUD competition.

The Application Process is a two part process. Middlesex completes that first part (Exhibit 1). Exhibit 2 is composed of Projects recommended through the Middlesex County CoC process. This is a true competition and a local process that includes both renewals and new projects.

The Technical Review Committee ranked all Projects and made recommendations based on the membership's review. Those around the table were provided with the Middlesex County FY2016 Final Budget. This Excel Sheet included the Agency, Name of Project, Rank, Tier, Total Request, Total Aware, Monitoring Score, Application Score and Percentage. The Projects were broken down into the Projects included in the Middlesex Application, Unfunded Projects and New Projects Received, along with an mathematical information on Tiers 1 and 2, etc.

Jay Everett explained the criteria the Technical Review Committee used and the method used to include and/or decline a project. Prior to final decisions being made, the Technical Review Committee requested additional information to many Projects with the assistance of Harriet. Rental assistance was altered to strategically use every dollar. The Committee was very diligent and conscientious in making decisions based on identifying Projects most similar to what HUD would be looking for.

The membership present was asked for comments prior to this meeting and after the entire explanation. The full application is due to HUD prior to September 14, 2016.

Since no one had a comment or question, Mike Gildenberg explained that even though a vote is being taken from a motion, everyone on the CoC is conflicted out of the vote which means everyone can vote because no one can vote.

That being said, a motion was made to approve the Middlesex CoC FY2016 Final Budget and recommendations by the Technical Review Committee as presented.

MOTION

Motion Made: Madeline Cook

Seconded By: Michael Gildenberg

Abstentions: None

Opposed: None

The Motion passed.

Melissa identified each of the contributing Technical Review Committee members and publicly thanked each one for his/her contribution and diligence as follows:

- Theresa D. Neidich
- Michael Gildenberg
- Scarlet Gorton
- Edie Grauer
- Jessica Polizzotto

Jay was also publicly thanked for his objective and expertise guidance over assisting the Technical Review Committee in comprehending the HUD's criteria required to make proper recommendations to the MCHC3 without putting anyone at risk of becoming homeless due to cuts.

V. DOCUMENTING FUNCTIONAL ZERO FOR VETERANS HOMELESSNESS

DISPOSTION: INFORMATIONAL

Melissa Bellamy handed out a "Summary of Middlesex County's Submission Confirming End to Veteran's Homelessness" which is an overview of what will be submitted to the Interagency Review Team confirming that Middlesex County has met the Federal Benchmarks and Criteria to be eligible to declare that Middlesex County is at "functional zero" for Veterans Homelessness.

Melissa went on to explain that Functional Zero does not mean Middlesex County will not have homeless veterans, but that resources exist to assist those homeless veterans as they are identified. Middlesex County works with Community Hope, Soldier On and the Veterans' Housing Assistance Program to make certain all identified homeless Veterans are assisted, including through Coordinated Assessment. Melissa commended the Community Hope and Soldier On organizations for not only having the ability to work together non-competitively, but at the same time also for performing such a remarkable job in unison.

VI. AMEND THE COC POLICIES & PROCEDURES FOR COMPLIANCE WITH CPD-16-11

DISPOSTION: MOTION

Melissa informed the membership that HUD has changed an old notice regarding "Notice on Prioritizing Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness and Other Vulnerable Homeless Persons in Permanent Supportive Housing".

In order to remain on the same level as HUD, the MCHC3 membership needs to change Section 7 (Written Standards for Coordinated Assessment) located in the Continuum's Procedures and Policies to put in place a new policy standard that is in compliance with the one HUD just altered.

Although this does not change what is being done in Middlesex in terms of Coordinated Assessment, the Coordinated Assessment Leadership Team will take a more detailed look at the change and make certain the Middlesex County Coordinated Assessment Initiative and the Written Standards are accounting for everything.

Jay explained that last year CPD14-12 was adopted by MCHC3. HUD has now slightly adjusted the Notice and renamed it (CP-16-11) since HUD changed the definition of chronic homelessness in a manner of wanting Continuums to look at other things to obtain housing such as credit, etc. Thus, this Notice is pretty much of the same thing, but a little bit different at the same time. For example: We will still look at vulnerability with respect to victimization but in doing so we will always adhere to HUD's definition.

Since there were not any questions from the membership, a motion was made to approve the Change in Section 7 of the Written Standards for Coordinated Assessment pertaining to the Prioritization Criteria as presented by HUD.

MOTION

Motion Made: Madeline Cook

Seconded By: Theresa D. Neidich

Abstentions: None

Opposed: None

The Motion passed

VII. COORDINATED ASSESSMENT & HMIS

DISPOSTION: INFORMATIONAL

Bobbin reported that all data looks good in HMIS. Performance Measures are required to be submitted for the NOFA and those look good. Bobbin reported that the Continuum's numbers are going in good directions and that the Continuum's Reports indicate what the Reports should indicate.

VIII. COMING HOME UPDATE & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DISPOSTION: INFORMATIONAL

Melissa was pleased to announce at today's (August 1, 2016) meeting that DCA awarded the Coming Home Collaborative 33 Housing Vouchers for the chronically Homeless as part of the the State Rental Assistance Program (SRAP) Housing First Initiative.

Bobbin Paskell informed everyone that the award letter has been received but not the Contract. Using the Coordinated System Middlesex County already possesses, 17 chronically homeless people have been identified. Needed documentation on those potential applicants is already being compiled so that when the Contract is ready, Middlesex be able to submit completed application packets.

IX. COMMITTEE UPDATES/REPORTS

DISPOSITION: INFORMATIONAL

No Reports at this time.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES/OTHER BUSINESS

DISPOSITION: INFORMATIONAL

- **MIPH UPDATE**

MIPH closed both facilities (Imani Park and Amandla Crossing) at the end of June. MIPH has been working with Mission First on a possible merger. The name "MIPH" will remain, but Mission First will be the organization behind everything.

Plans are to convert Amandla Crossing to permanent housing, with the assistance of 24 vouchers from DCA. This plan is still awaiting HMFA approval. The administration is presently looking into Imani Park and the possibility to switch to permanent housing, but would be looking for potential service provider partners

- **Coming Home** is in the process of scheduling a Silent Auction fundraiser on October 14, 2016 at Seabra's Armory in Perth Amboy. Although more information will be shortly follow by e-mail, if you have connections for donations for the Auction, please inform your contacts now.
- **Women Aware** is in the process of scheduling a CANDLE LIGHT VIGIL in honor of Domestic Violence in downtown New Brunswick on October 6, 2016 at 7:00PM. E-mail information to follow.

- **Stand Down in Morristown**
November 3, 2015
11:00am – 3:00pm
Ukrainian American Cultural Center
60 North Jefferson Road, Whippany, NJ 07981
Register/Donate/Volunteer at:
www.communityhope-nj.org/events/stand.down.php
- **Iryana Court Opening: Female Youth, age 18-21 at entry**
Highland Park Youth Supportive Housing Program:
For young women who are homeless, experienced a history of unstable housing during adolescence or aging out of foster care.
Not appropriate for young women who are pregnant or have children.
Contact: Lori Freedman at (732) 715-9838
- **United Way of Central Jersey**
Technical Assistance on August 5, 2016, 2:00pm at the Fire Academy
For Information: (732) 247-3727
- **Middlesex County High School Students Looking for Community Service Projects**
Contact Kathie Waite:
Kathie.Waite@co.middlesex.nj.us

XI. ADJOURNMENT

DISPOSITION: MOTION

A motion was made and seconded to officially adjourn the MCHC3 meeting.

MOTION

Motion Made: Theresa D. Neidich

Seconded By: Edie Grauer

Abstentions: None

Opposed: None

The Motion passed.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE:

DATE: Thursday, September 1, 2016

TIME: 9:30AM

LOCATION: MC Archives & Records Management
95 Apple Orchard Lane
(Route 130 and Apple Orchard Lane, North Brunswick)